

its rapid motions, in seizing its food, which it is believed it does by "striking across the course of what it supposes to be its flying prey,"—thus almost proving that its pursuit is more under the influence of sight than of taste or smell.

Couch, in his recent beautiful work, says that it will never attempt to seize that which seems without life; hence the object of the fishers is to cause the boat to be influenced by an amount of motion which shall resemble a living object. The boat must therefore be always under sail, and in a sufficient breeze to ensure any amount of success.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on the Genera Amphipeplea and Assiminea.

By J. GWYN JEFFREYS, Esq., F.R.S.

DR. E. VON MARTENS, in his interesting "Conchological Gleanings" (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 3. vol. xvii. p. 211), has referred to the description, in my work on British Conchology, of the shell of *Limnæa involuta*, in comparison with *L. glutinosa* and *L. auricularia*; but he seems to have overlooked the sectional character which I there gave of the first two species, viz. "extremely thin and fragile." Nor has he quoted exactly the words which I used in describing *L. glutinosa*. He would also have found that Lapland was recorded by Nylander as a station for *L. glutinosa*, Pau by Mermet, and the south-west of France by Des Moulins and many other writers. I thank him for having called my attention to the two localities in the Mediterranean province. The genus *Amphipeplea* cannot be separated from *Limnæa*, if *Aplexa* remains united with *Physa*.

Assiminea is undoubtedly marine and pulmonobranch, as I shall be prepared to show in the course of my work. The dentition of *A. Grayana* and *A. litorea* is delineated in the 'Annals and Magazine' for February 1859, pl. 3. figs. 12 & 13.

March 24, 1866.

On the Existence of a Third Membrane in the Anther.

By A. CHATIN.

Botanists generally believe that the anther consists only of two membranes, named, since the time of Purkinje, the *exothecium* and *endothecium*. But Meyen and Schleiden observed in certain young anthers the tissue which corresponds with the third membrane; they seem, however, to have regarded it as part of the *endothecium* of Purkinje. The author states that there is no doubt of the existence of a third membrane interior to the *endothecium* or membrane with fibrous cells; it forms a sort of interior epidermis, and should be called the *endothecium*, the membrane which received that name from Purkinje being the *mesothecium*.

Evolution.—The third membrane *always* exists at a certain stage